

WILDLIFE PROFILES



Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

Range: Long-eared owls are found across North America but are not seen often because of their secretive nature. They can be found at elevations near sea level all the way to above 6,500 feet. They can be found in Wyoming year round.

Size: Long-eared owls are crow-sized owls that look similar to their larger relative the Great-horned Owl. This slender owl weighs from 7- 15 ounces and has a wingspan of 35-40 inches.

Habitat: These secretive birds sleep in thick forests. They hunt in open grasslands or shrublands. They often build nests in forests or brushy vegetation next to open meadows or grasslands

Young: Long-eared owls lay anywhere from 2-10 white eggs in a hollow trees, cliffs or nests in trees. Long-eared owls do not build their own nests, so they use abandoned nests built by crows, magpies or hawks. Baby owls (or owlets) will hatch after about 27 days and are born with their eyes closed, covered in

white down. The owlets are helpless and rely on both parents to bring them food before they are big enough to fly and feed themselves.

Predators: Other large birds of prey, such as red-tailed hawks, golden eagles and great-horned owls, will sometimes eat adult long-eared owls. Raccoons have been known to attack females sitting on their nests. Porcupines, bull snakes, crows and magpies can eat owlets.

Food: Long-eared owls are carnivores, which means they eat only meat. They like to eat small mammals like mice, voles, shrews, pocket gophers, small rabbits and even insects

Did you know? Long-eared owls are nocturnal hunters, which means they hunt at night. They blend into trees by using their camouflage colors, standing up tall, sticking up their long ear tufts and flattening their body feathers to look like a tree branch.

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Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

Range: Greater sage grouse live in sagebrush country in the Western United States and Southern Canada.

Size: Adult males range in length from 26 to 30 inches and weigh between 4 and 7 pounds. Adult females are smaller, ranging in length from 19 to 23 inches and weighing between 2 and 4 pounds.

Habitat: Greater sage grouse are obligate residents of the sagebrush ecosystem, which means that they only live in sagebrush habitats.

Young: A week or so after breeding, the hen builds a nest and lays 6 to 8 eggs.

The eggs hatch after about 26 days and chicks become independent from their mothers at 12 weeks of age.

Predators: Adult greater sage grouse are often eaten by coyotes, bobcats, American badgers, falcons, hawks and eagles. Greater sage grouse eggs are eaten by ground squirrels, American badgers, magpies and ravens.

Food: Sage grouse like to eat insects as well as sagebrush and other plants.

Did you know? The greater sage grouse is the largest species of grouse in North America.

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Photo by Mark Gocke

Trumpeter Swan

Range: Trumpeter swans spend their summers in northwestern and central North America, with a majority being found in Alaska. In the winter, they migrate to Southern Canada, the Eastern portion of the Northwestern in the United States, including Wyoming.

Size: Adults are usually 4 feet 6 inches–5 feet 5 inches tall, and weigh 15–30 pounds.

Habitat: Large shallow ponds, quiet lakes, wetlands, wide slow rivers, and marshes.

Young: The female lays an average of 4 to 6 eggs in a nest on a small island, beaver lodge, or muskrat lodge. Their eggs are huge, measuring an average of 3 inches wide and 4.5 inches long! Baby swans

hatch after about 35 days, and begin to swim only two days after hatching.

Predators: Adult swans are rarely killed by other animals, but their eggs and young are often eaten by raccoons, bears, coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, foxes, minks, and river otters.

Food: These birds eat mostly aquatic plants (plants that grow in the water). Swans feed while swimming. In winter, they may also eat grasses and grains in fields.

Did you know? Trumpeter swans are one of the heaviest living birds or animals capable of flight, and the largest waterfowl.

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American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Range: Robins can be found anywhere in North America and live in Wyoming year-round.

Size: Robins are about 9 to 11 inches long with a wingspan of about 14 inches but only weigh about 2.5 ounces.

Habitat: Robins are active mostly during the day and can be spotted on lawns, in parks, in trees around town and around farm crop fields. They are one of the most commonly seen birds, so you can easily spot one if you look around enough!

Young: Robins build nests in trees in the early spring where they lay 3-5 eggs. After 11 to 14 days, the baby robins

(chicks) hatch and depend on their parents for the next two weeks until they leave the nest. Both parents feed young throughout their early life.

Predators: Robins can be eaten by hawks, cats and snakes.

Food: Robins like to eat caterpillars, millipedes, centipedes, beetles, earthworms, other insects and fruit.

Did you know? Young robins are often brought to Game and Fish offices after they have left their nests. It is best to leave these young alone; the parents are often nearby and actively feeding them, even when they look helpless on the ground.

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Black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*)

Range: The black-capped chickadee can be found year-round throughout the northern United States and Canada.

Size: Black-capped chickadees are about 5" long and weigh only half an ounce.

Habitat: Black-capped chickadees can be found in many different types of forest, as well as in parks and even your own backyard.

Young: Black-capped chickadees lay 6 to 8 creamy white eggs with red or brown specks in a nest that they build inside a hole in a tree or other little space. The chicks hatch after about 2 weeks, and have closed eyes and no feathers. The parents feed and take care of the chicks for several weeks until they grow feathers

and can fly. This is called "fledging."

Predators: Black-capped chickadees warn their flocks of nearby predators by making their "chickadee-dee-dee" call that they are well known for. Their most common predators include other birds like hawks, owls, and Northern Shrikes, as well as cats, weasels, and squirrels.

Food: Black-capped chickadees eat mostly insects in the summer, and seeds and berries in the winter.

Did you know? Black-capped chickadees have an amazing memory! They like to hide (or cache) their food under tree bark, in pine needles, or in a pile of dead leaves, and can remember where they hid their food for up to a month.



Downy Woodpecker

Range: Can be found throughout most of North America

Size: Their body length ranges from 14-18cm, with a wingspan of 25-30cm. They weigh only 20-33 grams, which is about the same weight as six quarters.

Habitat: They are native to forested areas, living and nesting in tree cavities that the males and females excavate (dig out) themselves.

Young: They lay 4-5 eggs each year, with both the mother and father helping to incubate them for 12 days until they hatch. Then the parents will both

feed the babies until they leave the nest about a month later.

Predators: They have to watch out for hawks, squirrels, and snakes that like to eat them. Having a small entrance hole to their nest can keep most predators out, except for snakes.

Food: They mainly eat insects, supplementing with seeds and berries. They often eat food that larger woodpeckers cannot reach, such as insects living on or in the stems of weeds.

Did you know...? This is the smallest species of woodpecker in North America.